

In response to that Office Action, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 23-25 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

Please amend Claims 1, 6, 11, 14, 18, and 22 to read as follows (a version of those claims, marked to show the changes, is appended):

1. (Amended) An image synthesis method comprising:
- a placement information obtaining step of obtaining placement information about a plurality of images in which adjacent images have a common subject region;
- a setting step of setting one mapping mode out of a plurality of mapping modes each corresponding to a different mapping surface in accordance with said obtained placement information; and
- a synthesis step of combining said plurality of images by using the mapping mode set in said setting step

6. (Amended) An image synthesis apparatus comprising:
- placement information obtaining means for obtaining placement information about a plurality of images in which adjacent images have a common subject region;